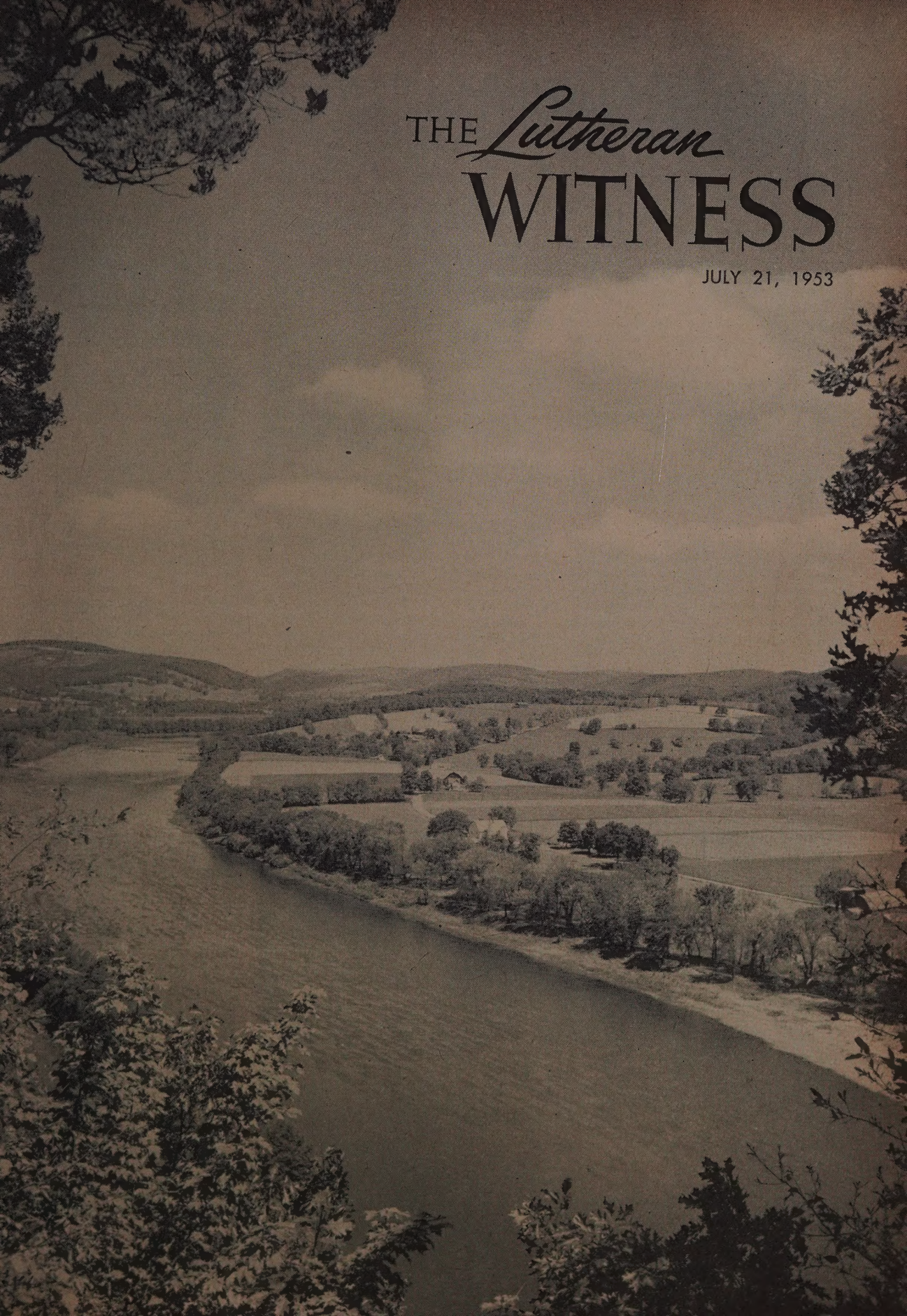

THE *Lutheran* WITNESS

JULY 21, 1953

Houston Convention Services

At the opening service on June 17, Vice-President Walter Lichtsinn suggested as a suitable prayer for the Convention the words of David in Ps. 67:1: "God be merciful to us and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us." Dr. Lichtsinn emphasized first that our many sins and failures in the past should move us at this time to plead for mercy. Again, we may be sure that God will not allow our prayers for His divine benedictions to go unanswered, even as He has in the past granted us such a rich measure of grace and blessing upon our labors, and has promised to do so in the future. Therefore we also ask Him to let us see His gracious countenance. In such assurance we will also approach our difficult synodical tasks in the coming triennium, for God will bless us.

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For Dr. J. W. Behnken's Presidential Address see WITNESS, July 7, 1953.

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The topics for the eight devotional messages which opened the morning sessions of the Houston Convention were selected from the theses in Dr. C. F. W. Walther's *Law and Gospel.*

Speakers. — First Vice-President of Synod Herman Harms based his message for June 18 on Thesis 1: "Two Doctrines Differing Fundamentally from Each Other — the Law and the Gospel."

Vice-President Arnold H. Grumm, of Fargo, N. Dak., spoke the following morning on "Rightly Distinguishing Law and Gospel from Each Other," from Thesis 3.

The message of the Rev. W. L. Kohn, President of the North Wisconsin District, June 20, was based on Thesis 5: "Christ Is Not a New Lawgiver."

On June 22 the Rev. Carl H. Bensene, President of the Northwest District, presented "The Law in Its Full Severity, the Gospel in Its Full Sweetness," from Thesis 6.

The next morning the Rev. A. H. Oswald, President of the South Wisconsin District, spoke on Thesis 8: "The Law for Secure Sinners — the Gospel for Terrified Sinners."

June 24 the Rev. Armand E. Mueller, President of the Southern California District, spoke on "Faith Is Produced by the Gospel and Not by Man's Own Effort," from Thesis 13.

Thesis 14 is the background for the devotions which the Rev. H. J. Rippe, President of the Atlantic District, conducted on June 25, "Salvation Is Through Faith — Never on Account of or in View of Faith."

At the last morning session, the Rev. Walter E. Homann, President of the Northern Nebraska District, spoke on "The Gospel Is the Only Motivation unto Godliness," from Thesis 23.

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At the Convention Mass Service, held in Miller Memorial Theater, Hermann Park, the evening of June 21, President Behnken preached on "Ye Are the Light of the World." He said that God made us lights, although not even the choicest Christian is a light in himself. Only Christ is the Light of the World. God wants us to function as lights. He provides opportunities for us to let our light shine. President Behnken reviewed the growth of the foreign missions in showing the opportunities God offers Christians to let their light shine. — More than 5,000 people from Houston's 23 synodical churches, including delegates and advisory members, attended the service.

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The traditional Convention Communion Service was held June 19, when over 600 delegates and guests received the Sacrament. Rev. Gilbert H. Raedeke of St. Paul's, Ottawa, Canada, spoke on the Lord's words to Ezekiel: "Son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel." Pastor Raedeke issued a call to the worshiping delegates for faithfulness and humility in their honored posts as ambassadors of the King of Kings. Rev. William W. Stratman of St. Matthew's, Houston, officiated. In the confessional address, Dr. Arthur Brohm, Sr., for 42 years pastor of St. John's, San Francisco, described the Lord's Supper as " a most powerful bond of Christian fellowship in faith and in love." Six Houston pastors: Revs. August F. Droegemueller, George W. Fickenscher, Walter C. Harting, Harold E. Theiss, Louis Vajda, and W. W. Stratman, officiated at three altars in the temporary sanctuary.

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THE COVER

Along the Susquehanna River, near Towanda, Pa. A. Devaney, Inc., N. Y., Photo.

Scene at Lutheran Convention Rally at Miller Memorial Theater Hermann Park, Houston

The Lutheran Witness

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All reports of ordinations, installations, dedications, and anniversaries should be sent to the Statistical Bureau, Lutheran Building, 210 North Broadway, St. Louis 2, Mo.

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Missouri Synod Convention Report, Houston, Tex.

June 17–27, 1953

Following are some of the most important of more than a hundred resolutions and highlights of the 42d Regular Convention of Synod:

COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES

Senior College at Fort Wayne. — After long debate and much longer sessions of Committee 1, Seminaries and Colleges, Synod by an almost unanimous vote resolved June 24 to establish a two-year Senior College on a new site at Fort Wayne, Ind.

In 1950 Synod reaffirmed its decision of 1947, to establish a Senior College (a term used to designate an academic level of the junior and senior years of the standard American college) and instructed the Committee of 99 to choose the location of the school. The committee chose the Chicago or Milwaukee suburban areas, and Synod's Board of Directors authorized the Board for Higher Education to take options on suitable parcels of real estate and to employ the services of an architect in a preliminary way, but not to proceed with the purchase of property or with the letting of contracts until the Houston Convention would have another opportunity to review previous action regarding the Senior College. This postponement was due in part to lack of funds to construct the Senior College.

Meanwhile Indiana Technical College of Fort Wayne made an unsolicited offer to purchase our Concordia College at Fort Wayne for $1,000,000. This sum, in addition to the amount set aside for the construction of a library and administration building on the present campus for $335,000 and the $3,000,000 allocated to the new Senior College from "Conquest for Christ" funds, offered new possibilities.

The Board for Higher Education and the committee considered that some buildings on the Fort Wayne campus would have to be razed, others reconstructed, and new buildings erected. The Senior College in Fort Wayne would be in an area where our Church is well represented and where Senior College students would have opportunities to observe and participate in church affairs.

The committee also weighed the facts that the Chicago or Milwaukee area would be more advantageous for off-campus scholarly pursuits and cultural activities; that the Fort Wayne experiment and teacher-training program would have to be transferred elsewhere; and that transportation to Chicago would be easier for many of the students than transportation to Fort Wayne.

In recommending that Synod locate the Senior College in Fort Wayne, Committee 1 emphasized that neither the basic decisions of the Milwaukee Convention nor the recommendations of the Board for Higher Education regarding the Senior College were being reversed. "Changed circumstances, which offer a solution for the Senior College situation that is considered providential by many, supersede the decision of the Committee of 99 regarding the location of the new Senior College," Committee 1 reported.

In the preamble to its resolution the committee stated: "We are mindful that the acceptance of our resolution, which locates the Senior College on a new site in the suburban area of Fort Wayne, does not preclude the possibility that another senior college — or even several senior colleges — may be established in various parts of the country in the future if, under the blessings of God and because of the missionary aggressiveness of our members, the Church we love — The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod — continues to expand and to embrace an ever larger number of members in her fold. Neither would we deny the possibility that after an adequate period of testing it may be found feasible, or even desirable, to change the structure of a senior college to a four-year college."

The use of $3,335,000 already assigned to the Senior College by the Board of Directors, plus the receipts from the sale of the old campus, should make the raising of further funds for the Senior College unnecessary.

The Fort Wayne Lutheran High School is now operating on two acres of campus leased from Synod; however, Synod's sale contract provides that an additional portion of this campus will be reserved, so that the Fort Wayne High School will have almost five acres of ground plus two additional houses.

The Board for Higher Education will compensate at other synodical institutions for the capacity and program losses sustained by the sale of Concordia College, Fort Wayne. The college, however, may continue to occupy the buildings and campus until July 1, 1956.

The President urged Synod to cooperate wholeheartedly in carrying out the resolution.

Professorships. — With reference to current requests, new professorships shall be created by the Board for Higher Education and the Board of Directors with power to act.

Synod resolved that all new appointments to the teaching staff of a synodical college shall be subject to the consent of the Board for Higher Education.

To meet the growing need for academically qualified and consecrated Christian teachers at our higher institutions, Synod directed the Board for Higher Education to secure from pastors and congregations suitable candidates' names to be kept on file in the Board's office. This procedure will not modify the regular procedures for electing professors.

Portland. — The experiment at Portland, which the 1950 Synod authorized for junior and senior high school work and freshman and sophomore collegiate work, was ordered continued. Synod also authorized the necessary budget subsidies arising from this experiment.

Edmonton. — An additional professorship at Edmonton Concordia was authorized.

Tuition. — After July 1, 1954, students who are not preparing for service in the Church will pay $80 a year tuition in Synod's high schools and $120 in Synod's colleges.

Advanced Scholarships. — The Convention authorized the Board for Higher Education to include the sum of $10,000 annually in its budget to cover the costs of advanced scholarship grants.

Self-Supporting Commissaries and Dormitories. — Synod directed colleges and seminaries to conduct commissaries and dormitories on a self-supporting basis, "if that should prove possible."

Expanded Testing Program. — The Board for Higher Education was authorized to conduct an expanded testing program for Synod's ministerial and teacher training, and to enter the cost thereof in its regular budget.

Balancing Production and Needs. — To keep Synod informed of the balance between Synod's requirements in pastors and teachers and the potential supply of such professional personnel, the convention voted to extend the functions and duties of the Board for Higher Education to include the study and recommendations concerning a harmonious balance between the production of professional servants for the Church and Synod's indicated needs in this area.

Teacher Training. — The teacher-training program is to be conducted as set forth in the following resolution: "The Junior Colleges participating in the two-year-plus-summer training program should be Austin, St. Paul, and Oakland. Bronxville shall be asked to provide courses for men and women to prepare directly for entrance in the junior class of the teachers' colleges, Winfield is to continue operating on a two-year terminal basis, with the understanding that the Winfield program is to be reviewed in 1956."

A teacher-training course was authorized at Edmonton, in conjunction with the University of Alberta, details to be worked out by the Board for Higher Education.

Synod adopted proposals for a more adequate supply of women teachers. Schools conducting the teacher-training program were authorized to include in the regular budget additions in equipment or teaching staff necessitated by this program. The teacher-training program at the junior colleges is to be supervised by a joint committee of the teachers' colleges and the Board for Higher Education. Representatives of the teachers' colleges, the synodical school office, and the Board for Higher Education are to develop a workable procedure to certificate women students and graduates. This committee is to draw up rules for certification of women students not trained in our system, as well as regulations governing transfer of women teachers from one congregation to another. These studies shall be reported to the College of Presidents.

Concordia College of Austin was authorized to inaugurate a two-year teacher-training program provided the Texas District constructs a dormitory to accommodate 80 girls. The cost of operation is to be included in the college budget.

Valparaiso. — Since Valparaiso University has indicated its willingness to study the possibility of assisting Synod in its training program for women teachers, the Convention expressed its appreciation and directed the *Praesidium,* the Board for Higher Education, and the presidents of our teachers' colleges to explore these possibilities and make the necessary arrangements for training women teachers at Valparaiso under synodical control, so as to meet Synod's expectations, if such arrangements upon investigation prove to be possible.

The solution authorizing adjustments and budgetary provisions for the teacher-training program at Valparaiso University was adopted with the following amendment: "And that no capital expenditures be made at Valparaiso University prior to 1956."

Assistant Secretary, Board for Higher Education. — Synod authorized the Board for Higher Education to appoint an assistant secretary to assist the Committee on Supply and Demand of the College of Presidents; to work with all boards and commissions which appoint or call Synod's professional personnel; and to co-ordinate (especially in teacher-training activities) the services of the Board for Higher Education and the colleges involved and similar activities connected with the training and placement of men and women for work in the Church.

Appropriations. — The Convention resolved unanimously to grant the sum of $4,475,000 for capital investments in Synod's higher education system.

PARISH EDUCATION

Goal of 50 Per Cent of Our Children in Day Schools. — Synod resolved again to reach for a goal of 50 per cent of our children in Christian day schools (Texas District has 71 per cent enrollment; Northern Illinois, 57; Western District, 55; Central District, 51; South Wisconsin, 50) by urging congregations to set themselves the same goal, and toward this end to organize parochial schools wherever possible and necessary; to share existing schools with other parishes; to establish more consolidated schools; and to make use of the findings of the Board for Parish Education. In 1952 there were 1,286 schools, with a total enrollment of 106,309, and 3,449 teachers. From 1947 to 1952, 216 schools were opened, and 142 additional congregations entered formal affiliations with sister congregations.

Teachers' colleges were encouraged to explore the possibility of extending their summer school program to other areas of Synod. Teachers were encouraged to enroll in correspondence courses with our teachers' colleges and attend local universities and teachers' colleges. District Boards of Education were urged to establish educational workshops, and congregations to make attendance possible as to time and finances.

Sunday Schools. — Sunday school enrollment reached 455,984 in 1952. The "Life of Christ" series of Sunday school lessons has had remarkable reception both within Synod and outside. Congregations were urged to arrange for weekly or at least biweekly meetings for Sunday school teachers, and to make regular use of Synod's teacher-training courses.

Family Worship. — Synod encouraged congregations to give special emphasis to family worship, to make good use of the new family film *Faith of Our Families* produced by our Church as an aid to the establishment and strengthening of the family altar, and to solicit help from women's, men's, and youth groups in sponsoring the Family Worship Project of 1954.

Status of Teacher. — The Convention resolved that Synod recognize those called by our congregations for various activities included in the ministry of the Word as "ministers of the Word," whose specific area of responsibility is determined by the congregation which issues the call; that this designation is also properly applied to those who are officially called to similar positions by the church at large or any portion thereof; and that all members of Synod, especially pastors' and teachers' conferences, include the study of the doctrine of the call in their programs for the next triennium.

Parent-Teacher Organization. — The Convention encouraged all congregations to give some type of practical assistance to parents through parent guidance groups and the use of materials such as the Parent Guidance Series.

Bible Study Advance. — Delegates voted to encourage every congregation to awaken greater interest in Bible study; enlist adults, young people, and children in Bible study; advance existing Bible classes and establish new ones; and to put the Bible study program on a continuing basis.

Lutheran-Roman Catholic Marriages. — Because there is a lack of uniformity of practice in dealing with mixed marriages between our membership and that of the Roman Catholic Church, and because inaction and a spirit of indifference will lead to confusion and dissension, Synod urged all pastors and congregations to deal firmly and evangelically in the matter of mixed marriages and asked the Family Life Committee to provide pertinent information as soon as possible.

Divorce. — Synod resolved to begin early enough to advise the youth of the Church of the importance of Christian fellowship and courtship; provide more realistic and practical help for Christian home-making; and that the Family Life Research Project's preliminary findings regarding the study of marriage, divorce, re-marriage, and related matters be submitted to a number of pastoral conferences for careful scrutiny before general distribution.

Nursery Roll. — Since many congregations do not maintain nursery rolls, which would give them contact with parents in the teaching of God's Word to their children and with unchurched parents, Synod urged congregations to maintain nursery rolls.

Co-ordination of Parish Work. — Synod recommended that the Co-ordinating Council, which through its publication of *Parish Activities* has aided congregations in planning their parish work, assist congregations in the co-ordination of all parish work whenever possible.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

All congregations were urged to strengthen the youth programs, Synod to provide adequate support. The Church's seminaries and teachers' colleges were encouraged to introduce courses and workshops in youth activities. Providing scholarships to Lutheran Service Volunteer Schools was recommended to congregations and societies. The Board for Young People's Work and the Walther League were encouraged to expand the program of leadership training, to which Synod promised adequate support. Greetings were extended to the Walther League, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

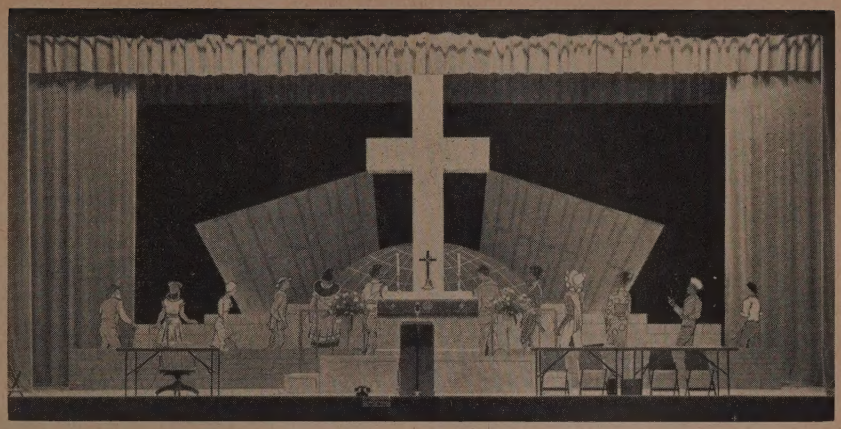
Student Service Commission. — To help expand the work of the Student Service Commission, Synod authorized long-term loans to synodical Districts for needed facilities. Nine new student centers were opened in the last year. Synod also encouraged the Commission to meet its present witness-bearing opportunities through Commission-controlled and Synod-financed participation in Religious Emphasis Week at colleges and universities, and through the establishment of Commission-controlled and Synod-financed chairs of religion in strategic locations.

MISSIONS

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

After the Secretary of Missions presented an overview of the Church's mission work, Synod voiced its gratitude for God's blessings upon its mission endeavors and commended the mission boards for developing indigenous churches in foreign fields, for beginning work in populous areas and then extending into surrounding territories.

120 New Stations a Year. — In the last triennium, Synod opened a new mission in the United States or Canada every third or fourth day. There has been a gain of 143,603 adult accessions. The new mission expansion program calls for at least 120 new stations in North America each year and for liberal support of Home Missions.



The setting for services and sessions of the 42d Regular Convention of Synod in the Music Hall, Houston, Tex.

Downtown Areas. — Recognizing the needs arising from the changing conditions in downtown areas and in older residential sections as a responsibility of the entire Church, Synod instructed the Board for Home Missions to continue studying these areas, to transmit its findings and suggestions to the District mission boards for analysis and possible solution of the problems. District mission boards are to plan for necessary financial help to enable such congregations to develop a program suited to their changing environment.

Rural Life. — The Board for Missions and the District mission boards were instructed to establish Rural Life commissions jointly to work out solutions of rural church problems.

Mission Councils. — The Convention encouraged mission councils — composed of national pastors, laymen, and missionaries in the foreign fields — to assume more responsibility in carrying on mission work.

Separate Offices. — Synod separated the office of Secretary of Missions from the Executive Secretary of Missions for North and South America and authorized the re-alignment in the duties of the personnel of the Board for Missions in North and South America so as to have created a secretaryship for each of these three departments: North American Missions; Latin American Missions; and Evangelism. The Mission Boards and the Board of Directors will define areas of responsibilities of the secretaries.

Africa. — The Synodical Conference mission in Nigeria has grown rapidly since it opened in 1936. It has almost 200 self-supporting congregations, with more than 26,000 baptized members. In 110 Lutheran schools there are enrolled 12,000 boys and girls, who receive daily instructions in the Word of God from 500 African teachers. The Nigerian mission now has a seminary, a normal school for training teachers, a high school, and a 75-bed hospital. Synod voiced thanks to God for His blessings upon our laborers in Africa.

Negro Congregations. — All Districts were asked to receive Negro congregations. Those unable to finance this work may request subsidies.

Use of Pension Fund for Church Extension. — The Convention asked the Board of Directors to seek the opinion of additional legal counsel to determine the legality of lending Pension Funds to District Church Extension Funds and passed the resolution with this amendment: "That if Pension Funds can be invested in the District Church Extension Funds and/or the General Church Extension Fund, the Board of Trustees of Synod's Trust Funds be authorized to proceed with such an investment."

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina. — Synod authorized two professorships at the seminary in Buenos Aires as well as the appointment of necessary instructors; granted $1,000 to $1,500 for providing necessary classroom space; and additional funds for a wing, dormitory and classroom space, and professors' residences. The Argentine District was instructed to study the possibility of beginning mission work in Chile and to enter the field when the time appeared right. The Convention commended members of this District for their enthusiasm in expanding the work.

Brazil. — Delegates voted for the separation of seminary training from preparatory education in our Porto Alegre college. The Board for Higher Education of the Brazil District will study details regarding curriculum, safeguarding Synod's interests, building costs for the next five years, additional professors, reorganization, and tuition, and submit their findings to the Board for Missions in North and South America, which will make definite recommendations to the Board

of Directors, empowered to execute these plans. For the present, temporary instructors shall be appointed at the Porto Alegre seminary and temporary housing provided for the students. The Brazil District received Synod's encouragement to explore and develop the mission opportunities in beaming the Lutheran Hour to Portugal.

Latin America. — Since the Mexican law forbids foreign pastors to minister to the spiritual needs of the Mexican people, Synod has established a theological school on the premises of our church at Monterrey. The school, which has graduated three pastors, has a present enrollment of 12. Six pastors serve six congregations and preaching stations that have 275 communicants.

At Guatemala City, services are conducted in Spanish and in English. Five missionaries and one vicar serve almost 500 souls, including 147 communicants. Lay workers have helped spread the missionary work to distant areas in Guatemala. At Puerto Barrios a parochial school was opened.

Cuba. — Two missionaries and two native workers minister to 152 communicants among 239 baptized members. Recently our mission in Cuba erected a school, which will also serve as a chapel on the first floor and the upper story as living quarters for the pastor. Funds for this building came from the Peace Thankoffering.

OTHER MISSIONS

Hawaii. — Through grants made from the Peace Thankoffering, the Centennial Thankoffering, and also through gifts and loans from "Conquest for Christ," the Hawaiian mission has branched from Honolulu to Wahiawa, a suburb. Total Sunday attendance numbers 280. New opportunities in the Hawaiian Islands will make it necessary to call a third missionary.

Korea. — Synod authorized the Board of Foreign Missions to begin work in Korea when time and opportunity are suitable.

Missions in the Orient. — Delegates were grateful for reports of mission work in India, New Guinea, Hong Kong, Japan, and the Philippines.

A dramatic highlight in the June 19 afternoon session was President Arthur H. Oswald's presentation of a certificate and a check in the amount of $10,000 in behalf of Trinity Church, Sheboygan, Wis., K. Schulz, pastor, to Dr. O. H. Schmidt, Secretary of Foreign Missions. The gift, a centennial thankoffering from Trinity, is to be used for a chapel in Japan or some other foreign country.

Medical Mission. — The Lutheran Medical Mission Association, organized in the last triennium, has chapters in Cleveland, Detroit, Buffalo, New York, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Omaha. The association has received the names of 5,018 men and women in the medical profession, who, with all pastors in the Church, receive *The Cross and the Caduceus,* a bimonthly bulletin. Synod encouraged the Mission Boards active in medical mission work to appoint the medical adviser of the association to an advisory position on their boards. The Board of Directors was authorized to continue to assist this program financially. New developments in this area are to be presented to the Board of Directors. The Medical Mission Association was asked to place its work on a self-sustaining basis at an early date.

Missionaries on Furlough. — Pastors and congregations were asked to invite missionaries on furlough to lecture and to preach.

Blind and Deaf Missions. — Synod commended the Board for Missions to the Blind for its zeal and authorized

After his report for Missions to the Blind, Rev. W. Storm (l. rear) introduced Walter Keith of Houston, guided by a Seeing-Eye dog. Vice-President Harms, right

continued publication of Christian literature for the blind. The Board of Directors was encouraged to support meetings of contact pastors with the board of this mission. Volunteer Braille transcribers were asked to unify and consolidate their efforts. Funds for this work shall be solicited with the board's approval.

Synod also expressed its appreciation of the leadership provided by the Board for the Deaf and urged the board to explore and develop work among the deaf in promising foreign fields.

Europe. — The Evangelical Lutheran Church in England was permitted to effect an independent status in fellowship with our Synod. This Church was commended for her aggressive mission program and adequate financial support promised for its work.

Synod authorized the establishment in France of a theological training center.

The work in Denmark is to be continued in a manner dictated by wise stewardship of manpower and funds.

The problems of our brethren in Finland were referred to the Finnish National Ev. Lutheran Church; however, financial support was authorized.

The Board for European Affairs was authorized at an opportune time to establish a Lutheran Council in Europe and to appoint a Field Representative for Europe. All missionaries were cautioned carefully to observe the Scriptural principles of fellowship, lest co-operation in externals lead to co-operation in essential church work.

Mission Council. — Synod encouraged the creation of a Mission Council composed of representatives from each of the following agencies: Armed Services Commission, Board of Missions to the Blind, General Church Extension Board, Board for Missions to the Deaf, Board for European Affairs, Board of Foreign Missions, Board for Missions in North and South America, Synodical Radio and Television Committee, Department of Social Welfare, Student Service Commission, Synodical Conference Missionary Board, and Lutheran Television Productions Committee. The function of the Council will give each mission agency of Synod an opportunity to share with all the other mission agencies its program, plans, and problems, and will work closely with the Department of Stewardship, Missionary Education and Promotion to determine those phases of missionary education which ought to receive special emphasis, as well as offer advice to other agencies within the Church, e. g., Lutheran Laymen's League, Lutheran Hour, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Family Worship Hour, Lutheran Medical Missions Association, Walther League, and other related organizations with reference to their missionary projects.

EVANGELISM

The Home Mission Board was instructed to provide necessary helps to enable congregations to evaluate themselves as to their missionary outreach and to train themselves and their members for mission work in their own communities, so that every congregation may look on itself as a mission center for its community and upon every member as a missionary.

The Sunday School by Mail program was ordered continued, and a vote of thanks extended to all who assisted in this project.

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Term of Office. — On recommendation of Committee 6, Synod fixed the term of office for all officials at three years unless the By-Laws specifically provide otherwise. In order to stagger the term of office for the Boards of

Control of colleges and seminaries, the District President is to be elected for a three-year term and the other members for terms of six years, the election to be so arranged that the terms of one half of the members shall expire at each triennial convention.

Board for Higher Education, Executive Agency. — The Convention voted for constitutional changes to make the Board for Higher Education the executive agency of the Board of Directors *re* the erection and maintenance of the physical properties of Synod's educational plants.

***Common Confession*, Part I.** — The 1950 adoption of Part I of the *Common Confession* had been challenged as unconstitutional. The Houston Convention upheld the constitutionality of the Chair's ruling and the statement of the Constitutional Committee of September 28, 1951, that: "The vote at Milwaukee on the acceptance of the *Common Confession* cannot be considered as violating the conscience of anyone inasmuch as Synod by resolution (*Proceedings*, page 585f.) has given an opportunity for further discussion of all questions regarding the *Common Confession* with the Committee on Doctrinal Unity."

English District. — The co-operative efforts of Synod and the English District looking to an amalgamation of the latter were ordered continued, and the Continuation Committee for this amalgamation is to make a report at the next convention.

Woman Suffrage. — By a rising vote Synod voiced its appreciation of women's service in the Church. The Convention authorized the President to appoint a committee of five members to prepare a thorough exegetical study of 1 Corinthians 14, 1 Timothy 2, and all other applicable texts relating to the question of woman suffrage in congregations. Meanwhile, voting privileges are restricted to qualified male communicants.

Approval of President. — The Committee on Constitutional Matters was authorized to add to every paragraph in the *Handbook* governing the appointment of Executive Secretaries and Assistants the words: "with the approval of the President of Synod."

INTERSYNODICAL AND DOCTRINAL MATTERS

Common Confession. — Since copies of Part II of the *Common Confession* did not reach the delegates in time for careful study and discussion before the Houston Convention, Synod resolved to postpone action for the time being. And since Part II of the *Common Confession* is intended to supplement and clarify Part I, Synod recommended that the two parts, for purposes of study, be treated as one document, with the understanding that Part II has not been adopted. The resolution, together with the amendment, that we urge all pastors, teachers, and laymen to study privately, in conference, and in adult Bible classes, the Scriptures as referred to in the *Common Confession* in its present form, asking the Holy Spirit for our Savior's sake to enlighten us on these teachings through His gracious Word, encouraging the membership to report their Scriptural findings to our Synod's Unity Committee in sufficient time to have them included in their written report to the next convention, was adopted.

The Convention urged the Committee on Doctrinal Unity to continue discussions with the representatives of the American Lutheran Church, and authorized further meetings of this committee, of our *Praesidium*, and District Presidents with corresponding representatives of the A. L. C.

Our sister synods and the Synodical Conference were asked to postpone action until Part II of the *Common Confession* had been acted upon by our Synod.

Synod reaffirmed the resolution of the Milwaukee Convention warning all members of Synod against any action which would overlook the fact that we are not yet united with the American Lutheran Church.

Wisconsin Synod. — The Convention asked the *Praesidium* to continue its attempts to settle in a God-pleasing manner the matters in the request of the Wisconsin Synod ("Reverse your resolutions on 'Scouting,' and reconsider your position on 'Joint Prayer,' as well as your answer to the 'Questions' our Synod addressed to yours in 1949" from Memorial 610:3) and to have the Wisconsin Synod informed of this action.

Standing Committee on Doctrinal Unity. — A standing Committee on Doctrinal Unity was ordered appointed, its duties to be listed in the *Handbook*.

Anti-Unionism. — All pastors were urged to instruct their members entering military service in our Scriptural position on unionism, so that exceptional cases arising in military life may not undermine sound practice in our congregations.

National Lutheran Council. — For the coming triennium Synod declined to apply for membership in the National Lutheran Council but agreed to co-operate with that body where that could be done without compromising Scriptural principles.

Lutheran World Federation. — The *Praesidium* was directed to appoint a committee of three to study the constitution and objectives of the Lutheran World Federation and evaluate its practical working in the light of Scriptural doctrine and practice. This committee is also to prepare recommendations on the question of membership in, or the extent of possible

(Continued on page 11)

Part of the Crowd of More than 1,000 Who Attended the Opening Service of the Houston Convention

Editorials

The "Witness" Watchword: **"Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." — 1 Peter 2:9.**

Forward, Missouri Synod

This issue of the WITNESS brings a brief report of the Houston Convention. While not official in the sense that the Secretary of Synod has checked every item, the report is, we believe, reasonably accurate. Nor is it by any means complete. Limitation of space compels the recording of mainly positive resolutions. Many expressions of commendation for work performed by individuals, boards, and committees necessarily have to be omitted. The amount of business coming before a convention which meets only once in three years and which represents a body of nearly two million members is naturally voluminous. However, painstaking examination of the many proposals before the convention by 19 floor committees, some meeting several days before the sessions opened, and well-weighed recommendations by these committees, as well as expert piloting by the Chair, aided in disposing of the convention business with dispatch. The two weightiest measures, the location of the Senior College and the authorization of a six-million-dollar emergency loan were, after thorough discussion, passed unanimously. In later issues the WITNESS hopes to bring more detailed articles on certain phases of synodical resolutions. It now remains for our members to carry out the convention resolutions. "We may disagree on methods; we may, and often do, disagree with individuals," to use a line from the Board of Directors' report, but "let us never forget that we are not building brick and mortar . . . but the Church of Jesus Christ" — the most important business on earth, building for eternity.

Peace of Mind

There can be no peace for the human soul unless there first be peace with God. Augustine: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts find no rest until we rest in Thee." Peace of soul does not come through the acquisition of wealth, honor, fame, or any other earthly good. These may be gratifying indeed, but they cannot provide tranquillity for the soul. If honor and fame brought rest, then rulers ought to be the most contented. But "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown." It has been said that the human heart is like a vessel filled with wine. The sediment gathers at the bottom, but is stirred up at the slightest movement.

What, then, is the divine prescription for acquiring a serene and tranquil heart? First, to search our hearts and try our ways; to recognize our guilt of sin; to confess our sin in sincere sorrow and seek God's pardon for Jesus' sake. Secondly, to trust God's promise that all things work together for good to those who love Him. That is not easy. "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." It wants to trust, but cannot free itself from fear. It is often a bitter struggle, but it is the only way. Only when we know and feel ourselves to be entirely in the safekeeping of our God, can we feel at ease and laugh at the troubles which beset us sore. "By Thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall." Ps. 18:29.

Rain

How beautiful is the rain!
After the dust and heat
In the broad and fiery street,
In the narrow lane,
How beautiful is the rain!
In the country on every side,
Where, far and wide,
Like a leopard's tawny and spotted hide,
Stretches the plain,
To the dry grass and the drier grain,
How welcome is the rain!

Reports of serious drouths in many areas of our country make us realize the truth of the poet's words and our dependence on rain for our well-being. With all our vaunted scientific know-how we can do nothing to produce it. We must depend on nature, it is said. And if nature fails, puny man is powerless. A Christian has the answers: "I [the Lord] will give you rain in due season"; "who [God] giveth rain upon the earth and sendeth waters upon the fields"; "who [the Lord] covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth."

Praise God for rain! Pray God for rain! Thank God for rain!

The Open Road

The open road is calling, and many of us, in the weeks ahead, will forget our normal routine and enjoy a period of relaxation and play. The open road will take us through the countryside, where we can see busy farm people tilling the rich loam, into which the power of God has placed the source of man's sustenance. As we feel the wind stirring the brown, mellow earth, and as we cross silvery streams on their lazy way to the sea, we shall be reminded again of the wonderful laws of nature through which God regulates seedtime and harvest.

God has blessed our beloved homeland not only with intangible assets, such as representative government, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and press, but He has scattered throughout the land natural beauty and physical grandeur unexcelled anywhere on the globe. Towering mountain walls line the open road on either side, and rushing rivers emerge from between rocky gorges. Wooded slopes, clothed in green, will delight our eyes as we travel. Our land is truly America the beautiful.

Then, as the Lord's Day approaches, we shall stop at a church in a country town or perhaps at one close to the highway. Although we shall be strangers within their gates, we shall be received cordially by our fellow Christians, and their circle will be opened to us. We shall join in the worship service, and a liturgy familiar to us will make us feel at home. We shall add our voices to those of the assembled congregation and sing:

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our hymn in grateful praise.

The Glory of the Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church is not made up of holy people. Though we are certain that its sincere members are by faith washed clean in the blood of the Lamb and are free from the condemnation of the Law, we are nevertheless painfully aware of many faults and frailties in our midst. From the greatest to the least there is need of daily contrition and repentance, a daily fleeing to the wounds of Jesus for pardon and peace. People who imagine themselves perfect are the world's blindest people.

On the other hand, the Lutheran Church has something whereof to glory, and that is the boundless grace of God, which has been showered upon her so abundantly in the Means of Grace. It is not that other churches could not have the same. The same Bible is available to all, but some are not willing to bow to its authority and accept it as the only rule of faith and life. In the Lutheran Church the Word of God rules supreme. This Word is preached from her pulpits. It is the glory of our Church that our pulpits are not given to the proclamation of worldly wisdom, be that philosophical, civic, or social, but to the preaching of the Word, both Law and Gospel; yet always so that Christ Crucified is proclaimed as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, as mankind's only Hope for this life and for that which is to come. There are people who tire of the Gospel and are ready to suggest other ways to liven up the services. And there may be preachers, too, who feel that they must reach out for flashier subjects to hold the interest of the people. But God forbid that pulpit or pew among us should ever yield to this temptation! The Church is here at the Master's direction to teach us to believe rightly, to live godly, and to die happily. May God ever preserve this priceless heritage to us and to our children!

Safe and Sane

"My faith in Synod has been strengthened," remarked one of our leaders after the Houston Convention.

It was a safe and sane Synod. Proposals in the application of doctrine leading to questionable entanglements were firmly but evangelically rejected. Likewise, measures intended to break off all contact with opportunities to witness were not adopted. The core was solid. In the matter of appropriations it was not a runaway convention. There was no plunging. After the motion to spend nearly five million dollars on colleges had been unanimously and enthusiastically passed, one of the prominent newspaper reporters quipped: "You Lutherans certainly know how to sling money around." He did not realize that all such proposals were passed "subject to the approval of the Fiscal Conference," which body, to quote our President, "applies the brakes most effectively when necessary."

One Way

Humor is a safety valve. It relieves tension. It is in place even at a synodical convention. When the delegates at Houston during one of the sessions were having difficulty in arriving at a decision, the president of St. Paul's College, Concordia, Mo., told the story of a congregation west of the Mississippi (it could just as well have been east) which adopted the following resolutions: 1) to build a new church; 2) to use the bricks and beams in the old church for the new church; 3) to use the old church building until the new church was built. The convention soon found the right answer.

The Measure of Christian Love

Love is the heart and center of the Christian religion. It is the love of God in Christ Jesus which accomplished our redemption; it is Christian love by which our lives become pleasing to God. Christian love does not create faith, does not earn our pardon — Christ's atonement, accepted by faith, accomplishes that — but it follows and reveals faith, it is the sure fruit of pardon. Where love is lacking, there is neither faith nor pardon; where faith and pardon exist in the heart, there is also love.

Christian love abounds in a disciple's heart in the same measure as he appreciates the goodness and mercy of God. The Savior once said: "To whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." That is to say, he who after the manner of the Pharisees has little or no consciousness of personal sin and guilt and therefore of forgiveness, will find it impossible to possess a rich measure of love. We love in proportion to the benefits which we receive. The more kindness a man shows to me, the more I will feel inclined to love him and value his friendship. Therefore he who realizes the tremendous blessings which the Giver of all temporal and spiritual gifts keeps showering upon him is bound to show the greater love toward God.

What kind of sermon on Christian love does your daily life preach?

One Church as Good as Another?

Time and again we hear the remark that one church is as good as another, that it matters little what you believe and where you worship. This statement, however, is usually made by people whose hearts are not centered upon religion, but upon the things of this world. It is nothing more than a convenient — and foolish — effort to quiet an accusing conscience.

A little thought will soon convince us of the folly of this notion. The right church is the church which preaches the Word of God in all its truth and purity. If one church says that the Bible is the Word of God, and the other that it merely contains the Word of God, both cannot be right. If one church teaches that the body and blood of Christ are present in the Sacrament, and the other denies the Real Presence, both cannot be right. If the Bible declares that we are saved by grace alone, the church which teaches salvation by works or character is wrong. The church which abides in all things by God's Word, neither adding to it nor taking away from it, is the true Christian Church on earth and the one in which we should worship.

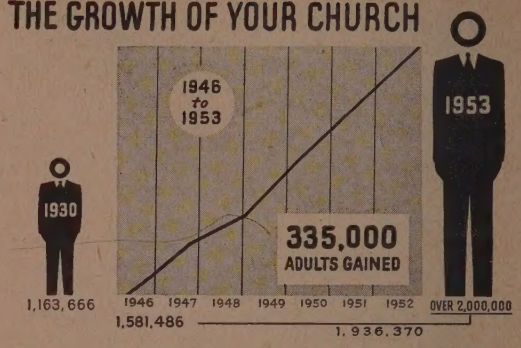
"How Do You Like It?"

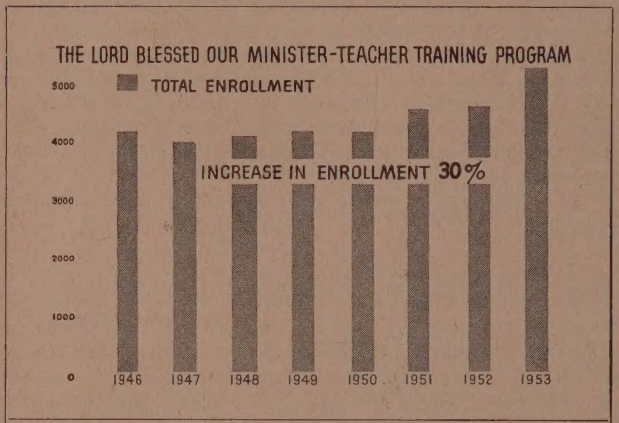
A missionary at our Houston Convention cautioned delegates never to ask a missionary: "How do you like it in — Africa, India, the Philippines?" An honest reply in many cases might be, he said: "We don't like it. We don't like the dirt, the inconveniences, the separation from relatives and friends. We would rather stay in the U. S. But when duty calls, when the Church sends, we know it is the Lord's will."

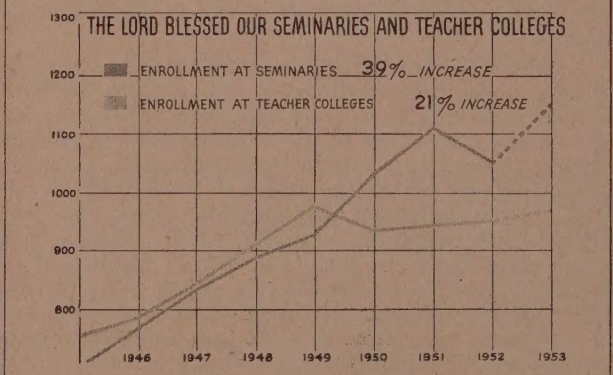
Our missionaries do not want sympathy. They do not want to be pitied for going to the ends of the earth to bring the message of salvation to benighted people. They do not consider their calling a sacrifice. They are laboring for the Lord. They are working for us. Let us give them our support, our prayers, not our sympathy.

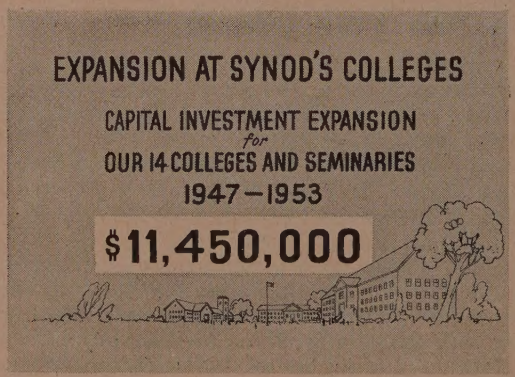
Graphs of Synod's Growth

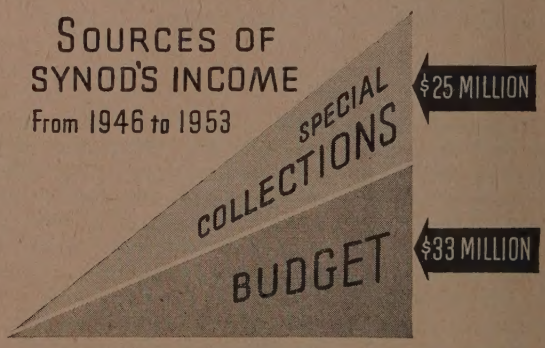
1946—1953











SYNOD

(Continued from page 7)

co-operation with, the L. W. F. These recommendations are to be presented to the College of Presidents by September, 1954, for study and amendment and are then to be submitted to all pastors and congregations by January 1, 1955, for study with a view to action at the convention in 1956.

Lutheran Men in America. — Since information was brought that the questions concerning Lutheran Men in America of Wisconsin was being dealt with locally, Synod took no action but implored the blessings of God upon the efforts to resolve this matter in a God-pleasing manner.

A. C. D. P. — Memorials regarding the Church, the Antichrist, the Last Things, Open Questions, treated in the report of the Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Practice, were referred to the *Praesidium* for further consideration and study, also questions regarding the theses on the "Church" and "Fellowship," since these matters are still under discussion.

Doctrinal Position. — Regarding unprinted Memorial 60, asking a declaration on the doctrines of Antichrist, the general conversion of the Jewish nation, the physical resurrection of martyrs, the visible side of the Church, Synod resolved to "regard the acceptance and reaffirmation of the *Brief Statement* as its response to the request made in the memorial." From the floor the question was raised whether the resolution meant that the *Brief Statement* and Memorial 60 are in agreement. The committee chairman replied: "The *Brief Statement* gives answer to Memorial 60."

"Doctrine." — The theological faculties are to study the question "What Is a Doctrine?"

Joint Prayer. — Synod declared that it does not consider joint prayers at intersynodical meetings unionistic provided such prayers do not imply denial of truth nor support error.

"A Statement." — Memorials dealing with the issues raised by "A Statement" were referred to the *Praesidium* for the purpose of obtaining furtherance of agreement on the issues raised.

Agreement with the Word of God. It is obvious, Synod resolved, that we should at all times strive for unanimous agreement with the Word of God in matters of doctrine and conscience. Since, however, matters of conscience are subject to circumstances, it was held that no general answer could be given.

Commission on Fraternal Organizations. — Congregations and pastors were urged to continue to take an evangelical but definite stand on membership in objectionable fraternal organizations, the Convention resolved. The Convention instructed Synod's Commission to continue its consultations with officials of fraternal groups for the purpose of "eliminating the objectionable religious principles and activities" of their organizations.

Paragraph 14:03 f of the *Handbook* was amended to read: "it is, and shall be, the practice of Synod not to administer Holy Communion to members of such lodges nor to admit such persons to communicant membership in our congregations."

Scouting. — The congregation asking for a clarification of Synod's policy on Scouting was referred to the Commission on Fraternal Organizations. Congregations were urged to avoid extremes in the matter of Scouting lest consciences be burdened.

PUBLICATIONS

Concordia Publishing House. — Under proper authorization of the Board of Directors, Concordia Publishing House, which employs 423 persons and has doubled its volume of business in the last six years, was encouraged to improve its office facilities.

The General Literature Board is to continue planning for additional volumes of the Commentary of the Bible and translation of Luther's Works.

Acknowledging the faithful service of the Young People's Literature Board, the Convention urged Synod's members to choose their reading matter cautiously. Reviews of worthwhile books are to be circulated, and suitable manuscripts are to be solicited.

Decreased teaching loads and leaves of absence were recommended for men to whom the preparation of necessary theological materials has been assigned, substitute teachers to be provided with the financial aid of Concordia Publishing House.

Synod authorized the publication of a journal of practical church work to be edited by an editor appointed by a six-man editorial committee from the Departments of Missions, Stewardship, and Education. The magazine is to be distributed free to pastors, called teachers, and congregational chairmen of the committees in question. The cost will be distributed over the budgets of the three departments.

Synod recommended that congregations and salary-paying boards subscribe to *Concordia Theological Monthly* or *Lutheran Education* for pastors, missionaries, and teachers.

The Synodical Centennial Committee was commended for its faithful work and instructed to publish an index to F. Pieper's *Dogmatics*.

Bible Translations. — Synod declined formally to endorse a single Bible translation. Synod urged pastors by diligent study to ascertain the intended meaning of the Scriptures, which, in their original texts, Synod accepts as divinely inspired. Pastors were urged to guide their congregations in weighing the merits and demerits of the various versions. The program of study, publication, and conference with translators and publishers aiming at improvement of erroneous translations is to be continued.

"Lutheran Witness." — The question of issuing the LUTHERAN WITNESS in a weekly edition was referred to the Editorial Board for study and consideration. This Board and the Stewardship Department shall "co-operate in effecting an inclusion of the material now offered in the *Mission Call* in any way that will further both the cause of missions and reader appeal for the LUTHERAN WITNESS.

Hymnal Text Edition with Tunes. Synod encouraged the Committee on Hymnology and Liturgics to make available additional liturgical and hymnological materials and authorized a text edition of the *Hymnal*, with superimposed tunes. It is to include Luther's Small Catechism and the Passion history.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Pensions. — Synod asked the Board for Support and Pensions and its Secretary to continue their efforts to persuade all congregations and workers of Synod to support the Pension Plan, introduced in 1937. The Convention resolved that, beginning February 1, 1954, a retired worker be granted a minimum of $100 a month and a widow $60 a month, and that adjustments for disabled members be made accordingly. *Handbook*, Section 10.47 b (3) was amended to read: "A worker retiring at the age of 65 or over shall be entitled to receive his Old Age Benefits in full if his annual earnings from church work and/or secular work do not exceed an average of $120 a month. If he received average earnings in excess of $120 a month from church work

L. to r.: Rev. George W. Wittmer, pastor, Messiah, St. Louis, was secretary of Committee 11, Finances; Dr. Martin F. Kretzmann, Secretary of Synod since 1920; and Prof. Paul F. Bente, Fort Wayne, appointed assistant secretary of Synod at every convention since 1920

and/or secular work, a corresponding reduction shall be made in his Old Age Benefit"; borderline cases to be referred to the Board for decision. Section 10.47 b (1) was amended to read: "and that his widow was married to him prior to his retirement." The following was also ordered: "In the event that a worker marries while receiving an annuity, his widow and her children shall have no claim on the benefits of the Pension Fund." The Board was asked to continue its efforts in persuading non-participating workers to join the Pension Fund, and congregations were encouraged to pay their workers enough to enable them to join. Workers who, after January 1, 1954, have not joined are to forfeit all claims to support benefits. Workers who, after July 1, 1953, accept positions in which they receive their salaries from The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod shall be required to participate in the Pension Fund.

Social Security. — The Convention declined to take official action urging Congress to extend Social Security benefits to professional church workers. Should Congress enact such a law without making it mandatory, workers and congregations shall be left free to decide about entering the Federal program, but such action shall not militate against the synodical pension or become a substitute for it. The third resolution was amended and passed as follows: "In the event that individual workers, congregations, District and synodical officials, and other agencies decide to participate in the Federal Social Security program and reduce their contributions to the Pension Fund correspondingly, the Board of Support and Pensions shall be authorized to make the necessary adjustment and report to the next convention."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"Conquest for Christ." — E. J. Gallmeyer, Chairman of the Conquest for Christ Committee, introduced Dr. John C. Baur, Executive Secretary for the "Conquest for Christ" offering. He reported that of the $13,982,229.39 subscribed, $13,481,558.71 has been paid, leaving an unpaid balance of $500,670.68. Forty-two parishes (11,739 communicants) or .73 of 1 per cent have postponed the collection. No reports were received from 36 churches (5,742 communicants), or .46 of 1 per cent. Fourteen churches (3,535 communicants), or .24 of 1 per cent, declined to participate. This means a total completed participation of 98.39 per cent and a potential total participation, when the postponed collections are reported, of 99.12 per cent. Of our communicant members 99.26 per cent took part.

Treasurer. — The action of the Board of Directors in having the Treasurer assume the duties of synodical Comptroller and engaging a competent assistant, who is eventually to become Comptroller, was approved.

Dr. W. H. Schlueter, Treasurer, stressed the fact that all available funds are allocated, and that resolutions for expansion ought to include recommendations for providing the money. Synod, he said, is truly big business; $30,000,000 is handled annually, every dollar of which can be traced from its appearance to its disbursement.

While necessary, unspent money of some of certain funds is temporarily used to defray expenses of other funds. Trust funds, however, cannot and are not used for any emergency. Unspent funds of the "Conquest for Christ" offering are invested in short-term Government bonds.

Lay Retirement Plan. — Synod adopted the resolution of the Lay Retirement Committee.

Capital Investment Fund. — In view of the $4,475,000 appropriations for capital investments in our higher educational system, and also in view of the dire need for loans and grants to mission stations for chapels, schools, and parsonages throughout the world, the Convention adopted the following resolutions: "that Synod authorize a Survey and Findings Committee to be composed of the voting members of the Board of Directors of Synod and a like number of District representatives chosen by the voting members at the meeting of the 1953 Fiscal Conference of Synod and that the Planning Counselor of Synod, the Stewardship Counselor of Synod, the Comptroller of Synod (when appointed), and the Ass't Treasurer of Synod be considered advisory members; that this committee, as soon as possible after the 1953 meeting of the Fiscal Conference of Synod, make a careful and detailed survey of the present financial program of our Church and its financial requirements for the future, as far as they can be determined; that the Board of Directors, upon approval of this committee, be authorized to set up a Capital Investment Fund, the amount to be determined by this committee, to be used for missionary and higher educational work as carried on by Synod; that the allocations from this fund be left to the discretion of the Board of Directors, as to project, priority, amount, and time; that the Board of Directors, upon approval of this committee, be authorized to borrow moneys not to exceed $6,000,000 for the Capital Investment Fund in such amounts as in the committee's findings are necessary to meet the most critical needs; that this committee be empowered to devise ways and means for raising these funds subject to the approval of the Fiscal Conference; that this committee serve in the aforementioned capacity for the next triennium; that this committee be known as the Survey and Findings Committee of Synod; and that all matters pertaining to the inclusion of capital investment funds in the 1954 Synodical Budget be referred to the meeting of the Fiscal Conference of Synod in 1953."

Missouri Synod TV Program on NBC Network July 26 "Frontiers of Faith" telecast from Trinity Lutheran Church, Long Island City, N. Y. Preacher: the Rev. Herman J. Rippe, President, Atlantic District. Consult your local newspapers for time and station.

MISCELLANEOUS

Social Welfare. — The Department of Social Welfare, created by the 1950 convention, now has a full-time Executive Secretary, Dr. Henry F. Wind, whose office is in St. Louis.

Family Worship Hour. — Synod encouraged congregations to support the Family Worship Hour wholeheartedly.

American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. — Congregations and pastors were asked to support the A. L. P. B., which will observe its 40th anniversary in January, 1954. The bureau distributes Gospel tracts; promotes advertising through various media; sponsors National Lutheran Publicity Week, National Sunday School Week, and Reformation Week; and publishes the *American Lutheran Magazine*.

Department of Public Relations. — The Convention commended the synodical Department of Public Relations for its work (one of the busiest centers at the Houston meeting was the Public Relations and Press Room under the stage of the Music Hall). Congregations were asked to recognize their public relations responsibilities in their communities and to avail themselves of the District departments, always interested and ready to offer co-operation in public relations.

Armed Services Commission. — Need for the Armed Services Commission will in all probability continue at least until 1957, since our best youth will be called out in its most impressionable years and the Church must accompany them with Word and Sacrament. Dr. Paul Dannenfeldt, chairman of the Commission, referred to the consecrated and efficient service of our chaplains.

More than 35,000 members of Synod are now in military service.

Radio and TV Committee. — After commending the synodical Radio and TV Committee, Synod ordered the committee reorganized so that all agencies working in radio and TV will be adequately represented. This new committee is to carry out work of the

Radio and TV Committee, KFUO Committee, Lutheran TV Productions, and Department of Public Relations. This resolution does not mean that the Department of Public Relations should be merged with this committee. The new Radio and TV Committee is to coordinate the work of the aforementioned groups in order to help avoid duplications, bring about exchange of ideas, and conduct such other business as may be profitable to the Church. The Board of Directors, commended for the consideration it had given to the KFUO-TV proposition, was authorized to activate the grant of the Federal Communications Commission on a commercial basis, and it was also authorized to continue its work in coordinating radio and TV activities. For the time being Lutheran TV Productions Committee remains a committee appointed by the Board of Directors. Pastors were encouraged to utilize on local stations radio and TV helps prepared by the synodical committee, which is to continue building its library of scripts. Subject to the approval of the Fiscal Conference, the Radio and TV Committee is to be granted additional funds and is to appoint a director. Synod expressed its gratitude to all stations which had given free time and to the Federal Communications Commission.

Synod expressed its appreciation to the organizations and individuals who had assisted in contacting the unchurched brought to our attention through the TV program "This Is the Life" and urged pastors and congregations to make such contacts immediately upon receiving notice.

The Convention recognized the work of the Lutheran Hour and of KFUO. The Fiscal Conference was encouraged to support Station KFUO liberally. The Lutheran Hour, which costs approximately one-and-a-third million dollars a year, has been carried on without any expense to Synod's treasury. Throughout many glowing reports on Foreign Missions — from Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, India, Central and South America — and the invitations from Portugal and Chile, the recurrent Lutheran Hour motif runs like a golden Gospel thread.

Board for World Relief. — Synod resolved that the General Relief Board will henceforth be designated "Board of World Relief, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod." It shall consist of three pastors and three laymen to be appointed by the Board of Directors and of the Executive Secretary of the Board for Social Welfare. The newly renamed board, instructed to procure necessary help and to establish the office of Executive Director, is authorized to appeal for funds at a convenient time. Congregations were encouraged to respond generously to alleviate suffering throughout the world. Whenever need arises, the board is to ask for funds, food, and clothing. Reports on the dire need in Germany, Palestine, Jugoslavia, India, Hong Kong, Formosa, and Korea, and reports on the results of Canadian World Relief were given.

Historical Institute. — Synod acknowledged the gift of the Concordia Historical Institute building, on the campus of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, encouraged the institute to enlarge its microfilm collection; called upon all agencies to deposit with the institute records no longer needed by them; and asked all who had in their possession minutes and records of defunct congregations and of pastoral and teachers' conferences to do the same. Synodical schools and institutions were urged to deposit copies of their printed historical materials in these archives. Members of Synod were encouraged to join the institute and the Fiscal Conference to grant budget subsidies.

Audio-Visual Education. — Concordia Publishing House was charged with the responsibility of procuring and disseminating visual-aids materials so that the visual-aid project be self-supporting. The Board of Directors and the Board of Concordia Publishing House were commended for their policies in connection with the audio-visual education and for distributing material of high standard. The Audio-Visual Education Board was encouraged to expand its efforts.

Handbook Sections 7:105 c and 7.107 were ordered changed to conform to these resolutions: "That all projects and transactions involving physical production, buying, selling, rental, and distribution of visual-aid material be made the responsibility of Concordia Publishing House in consultation with the Visual Education Board" and "That Concordia Publishing House be requested to make available to the Visual Education Board an annual budget allowance out of the proceeds of its visual education materials sufficient to permit it to carry out paragraphs four and five of its instructions from Synod, which planning and promotion shall be done in consultation with Concordia Publishing House."

Council of Lutheran Agencies. — Delegates recognized the Council of Lutheran Agencies, authorized by the 1950 convention, as a co-ordinating council of the various intrasynodical agencies within Synod, and commended these agencies to Districts, circuits, and congregations, urging them to give the agencies liberal and continued financial support.

Christian's Attitude Toward War. The President of Synod was instructed to have a theologian prepare a clear and concise statement on "A Christian's Attitude Toward War," which is to be published in the *Concordia Theological Monthly* and the LUTHERAN WITNESS."

Grand Cross Award. — Dr. O. A. Geiseman informed the Convention that the Acting Ambassador of West Germany had reported that his government had awarded to President Behnken the Grand Cross, highest award of West Germany, in recognition of the service which The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, under his leadership, had rendered to the war-stricken people of Europe, especially of Germany.

Bible Rally. — The evening of June 18 President J. W. Behnken was the keynote speaker at a Bible rally held in Houston's Music Hall. After his address, Rev. Martin L. Koehneke of Austin, Tex., who is Counselor for Parish Education in the Texas District, led a panel discussion. According to Rev. Oscar E. Feucht of St. Louis, Synod's Secretary of Adult Education, the rally served as a stimulus toward carrying out an expanding program of Bible study throughout the Church. Bible class enrollment within Synod has risen from 65,000 in 1946 to 145,000 in 1953.

Laymen's Meeting. — More than 400 people attended the meeting of the laymen at the convention which was held the evening of June 22 in St. Matthew's Church, Houston. Henry Buck of Kansas City, Mo., spoke on the challenges and opportunities of the Church. E. J. Gallmeyer presented the financial picture of Synod, and Dr. Walter Baepler, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill., outlined the history of the *Common Confession* and of Synod's doctrinal unity discussions with the American Lutheran Church.

ESSAYS

Two doctrinal essays were read at the Convention. Dr. John Theodore Mueller, professor of Christian doctrine at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, treated his subject, "The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod and the Ecumenical Movement," under four heads: I. An Overview of the Modern Ecumenical Movement; II. True Ecumenicity, the Goal of the Christian Church; III. True Ecumenicity and the Word of God; IV. True Ecumenicity, Our Answer to the Modern Ecumenical Movement.

Prof. Fred Kramer of our Springfield Seminary delivered the second essay on "The Church Fixes Her Eyes on the Second Coming of Christ." He discussed the subject from two viewpoints: I. The Church Watches the Signs and Prepares Herself; II. The Church Accelerates Her Work.

The LUTHERAN WITNESS in future issues hopes to give its readers copious excerpts from these essays.

GREETINGS

Rev. Roland Wiederaenders, pastor at San Antonio and President of the Texas District, in behalf of Governor Shivers of Texas and Mayor Hofheinz of Houston, extended personal greetings to the Convention; Rev. Robert Daniel of Shamrock, Tex., for the Slovak Ev. Lutheran Church; Rev. C. M. Gullerud of Mankato, Minn., for the Norwegian Synod of the American Ev. Lutheran Church, of which he is president; Rev. Edmund Wiebusch, for the Ev. Lutheran Church of Australia; Rev. E. J. Braulick, for the American Lutheran Church; Bishop Hanns Lilje, President of the Lutheran World Federation, for the Lutheran Church of Hanover, Germany; Dr. Frank W. Langham, for the American Bible Society; W. C. Dickmeyer, for Valparaiso University; Major General Charles I. Carpenter, for the Armed Forces Chaplains Board; Harry Seamans, liaison officer, for the U. S. State Department; Profs. E. C. Reim and Carl Lawrenz, for the Wisconsin Synod; and Rev. Arnold F. Krentz, for the Ev. Lutheran Deaconess Association within the Synodical Conference.

Messages were read from Dr. Carl Lund-Quist, Geneva, Switzerland, for the Lutheran World Federation; Dr. P. H. Petersen, German Free Church, of which he is President; Rev. Fred C. Kreiss, Ev. Lutheran Church of France; Rev. Elmer Witt, for Walther League; Dr. Herman Sasse, United Ev. Lutheran Church of Australia; Pastors' and Teachers' Conference, for the Michigan District of the Wisconsin Synod; and from our missionaries in India, Japan, New Guinea, and Formosa.

Synod acknowledged these greetings and sent messages to the Norwegian Synod for its centennial, and to the National Finnish Church in convention at Cleveland, and to the Walther League for its 60th anniversary.

THANKS

Prayers of thanks were offered in memory of the fellow workers who had departed to their heavenly home in the preceding triennium. By a rising vote Synod expressed its appreciation of the leadership of Dr. Behnken and of the services of the Vice-Presidents: Drs. Harms, Hertwig, Lichtsinn, and Grumm; the Secretary, Dr. Kretzmann; his assistant, Prof. Paul Bente; the Treasurer, Dr. Schlueter; Dr. Streufert for his 29 years of service as Secretary of Missions; and of the many boards and committees, beseeching divine blessings upon all of them.

Synod expressed its gratitude to the Texas District, which served as an able host to the first synodical convention held in the South, and to the congregations of Houston, which had contributed nobly of their time, labor, and money, and especially the Convention Committee for making the Houston Convention successful.

ELECTION RESULTS

Officers of Synod: Rev. J. W. Behnken, D. D., President; Rev. H. Harms, D. D., First Vice-President; Rev. A. H. Grumm, D. D., Second Vice-President; Rev. W. F. Lichtsinn, D. D., Third Vice-President; Rev. F. A. Hertwig, D. D., Fourth Vice-President; Rev. M. F. Kretzmann, D. D., Secretary; Mr. W. F. Schlueter, LL. D., Treasurer, Trust Officer, and Comptroller.

Board of Directors: President J. W. Behnken, D. D., chairman; Rev. M. F. Kretzmann, D. D., secretary; Mr. W. H. Schlueter, LL. D., treasurer; Rev. Edwin T. Bernthal; Rev. Arthur H. Oswald; Rev. Oliver Harms, D. D.; Messrs. John W. Boehne, Jr., E. J. Gallmeyer, Theo. H. Schlake, Clarence Amling, Henry Buck.

Board for Missions in North and South America: Revs. W. E. Dorre, Henry Blanke, L. W. Koehler, Harry Krieger, L. H. Deffner; Messrs. Alvin Wulf, E. T. Schumm, E. G. Vetter, Clarence Kremmel.

Board for Missions in Foreign Countries: Revs. R. G. Lange, W. Raedeke, M. Hartenberger, Paul Mehl; Profs. W. Arndt, L. M. Petersen; Messrs. Walter Meyer, Louis Prange, Ernest Balke, Louis Dau; Teacher John Runge.

Board for European Affairs: Revs. L. Buchheimer, W. G. Daib, Alfred Trinklein; Messrs. C. A. Baier, W. Hanser.

Church Extension Board: Revs. A. W. Born, H. Zehnder; Teachers G. Bode, F. Lietz; Messrs. L. Kuhlman, H. W. Krieger.

Board for Missions to the Deaf: Revs. Wm. A. Buege, Ernest R. Drews, Erwin Schroeder; Messrs. C. F. Kruse, J. P. Miller.

Board for Missions to the Blind: Revs. G. Brueggemann, V. Selle, E. C. Beversdorf; Messrs. E. Boerger, E. Martins.

Board for Parish Education: Profs. Paul M. Bretscher, Martin Scharlemann; Rev. C. T. Spitz; Teachers Vernon H. Koehler, A. R. Brandhorst, Paul W. Lange; Messrs. Carl E. Dauten, Fred L. Kuhlmann, Robert E. Steinmeyer.

Board for Young People's Work: Rev. Clarence Peters; Prof. L. W. Spitz; Teachers H. C. Gruber, L. Ramming; Mr. Gilbert B. Muchow.

Student Service Commission: Prof. E. M. Plass, Rev. Richard Jesse, Mr. W. H. Gross.

Board of Appeals: Profs. Paul F. Koehneke, Erwin Schnedler; Revs. H. J. A. Bouman, Paul Koenig, Wm. F. Krueger, Erwin Kurth; Teachers Leonard J. Dierker, Henry Felten; Messrs. Eugene Wengert, Harry Barr, Otto Scheimann.

Board for Support and Pensions: Revs. Oscar Fedder, Carl Pfotenhauer, L. H. Koehler; Teachers A. W. Obermann, Elmer Roth; Messrs. Otto C. David, N. Fleischer, Louis Bartelt, George Bettinghaus.

Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House: Messrs. R. C. Obermann, Alfred T. Leimbach, A. J. Meyer.

Board for Audio-Visual Aids: Revs. H. A. Bielenberg, Otto F. Stahlke; Prof. C. T. Brandhorst; Teacher Walter F. Steinberg; Messrs. T. G. Eggers, Ernst Tieman, Elmer F. Kraemer.

Selections Committee for Nominations Committee in 1956: Revs. C. W. Berner, R. E. Meinzen, Wm. Dau; Teacher Walter Redeker; Messrs. Carl Schroeder, W. C. Dickmeyer; Col. E. H. Meinzen.

Boards of Control for Seminaries and Colleges

St. Louis, Mo.: Revs. F. Niedner, E. L. Roschke, J. Oppliger; Messrs. O. P. Brauer, J. A. Fleischli, T. Heinicke, W. Rasmussen, E. Mueller.

Springfield, Ill.: Rev. B. Selcke; Messrs. H. M. Olsen, J. C. Rodenburg, O. H. Droste.

River Forest, Ill.: Rev. E. L. Paul; Teachers E. H. Ruprecht, A. Roschke; Messrs. W. Link, L. Forster, E. Elbert.

Seward, Nebr.: Rev. O. A. Graebner; Teacher E. C. Mueller; Messrs. F. Koltermann, E. T. Miessler. The following will serve for three more years: Teachers E. A. Buchholz, A. C. Bek, L. C. Heine, W. A. Leppin.

Fort Wayne, Ind.: Rev. E. P. Schmidt; Messrs. R. Moellering, C. Brenner, R. Berning.

Milwaukee, Wis.: Rev. H. Brueggemann; Messrs. E. Pritzlaff, E. Erdmann, J. Sichling.

St. Paul, Minn.: Rev. H. W. Brill; Messrs. H. Neils, E. Heuer, W. Decker.

Concordia, Mo.: Rev. O. Tiemann; Messrs. E. Pape, O. L. Viets, A. Schreiner.

Bronxville, N. Y.: Rev. L. Wagner; Messrs. C. Nehring, F. Schuermann, L. W. H. Rabe.

Winfield, Kans.: Rev. L. J. Fenske; Messrs. W. H. Wulf, L. L. Sauer, W. Helberg.

Austin, Tex.: Rev. W. E. Meyer; Messrs. A. Schultz, P. Nerger, F. R. Leschberg.

Portland, Oreg.: Rev. E. C. May; Messrs. R. Brandon, G. W. Ude, G. Jones.

Oakland, Calif.: Rev. P. Huchthausen; Messrs. A. Theiss, E. Meese, H. Lemke.

Edmonton, Alta., Can.: Rev. M. J. Bruer; Messrs. C. Kuhnke, A. C. Lechelt, J. Unterschultz.

Porto Alegre, Brazil: Rev. G. Mueller; Messrs. A. Nickel, O. Kraemer, H. Wagner.

Buenos Aires, Argentina: Rev. J. P. Horn; Messrs. R. Kraemer, M. Donner, F. Ahnert.

NEXT CONVENTION

The 1956 convention will be held in St. Paul, Minn.

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In the memorial service, held on the afternoon of June 23, Rev. M. H. Holls, President of the Southern District, addressed the convention on Heb. 11:13. In remembering our departed fellow workers in Christ, he said, we follow the example of the holy writer. We remember these brethren because they followed faithfully in the footsteps of the Master and did the work of the Master in a world where ungodliness runs riot, where error is propagated and insidiously creeps in even where the truth is preached. They leave behind for us the message that we are still on earth because God's work must still be done here, and we are here to do it. Hence let us speak as the oracles of God, work while it is day together with our synodical brethren, and, in correcting what is wrong, be careful not to destroy what is good. Such correction can most safely be made when we use the established rules and regulations. The Lord expects us to be faithful in all things.

Closing Prayer in Report of Committee on Doctrinal Unity: "We close with the prayer that our gracious God may guide and bless the efforts put forth to achieve and keep a unity of doctrine and practice that is pleasing to Him. We ask it for our entire Synod, for all with whom we are now in fellowship, for those with whom we are negotiating, and for as many others as it may please Him to bring into contact with us."

Dr. Martin Piehler, General Transportation Secretary of Synod, estimated that concessions made by the railroads to clergy delegates saved Synod between $20,000 and $25,000. The excellent service and the co-operation, particularly of the Missouri Pacific, Santa Fe, Rock Island, Southern Pacific, M-K-T, and Frisco, were highly appreciated.

DEATHS

Christian Philip Rohloff (July 9, 1890, Holloway, Minn., to May 3, 1953, St. Louis, Mo.), son of William and Mary Weiss Rohloff; graduated, Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., 1910; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1915; vicared at Cut Meat, S. Dak., 1911 to 1913; served mission stations at Cupar, Lipton, Southey, and Markinch, Sask., Canada, 1915 to 1919; Emmaus, Dorsey, Ill., 1919 to 1922; Trinity, Nashville, Ill., 1922 to 1947, when he resigned because of ill health; again served in the ministry at Bunceton, Mo., 1950 to 1952, when for a second time he resigned for reasons of health. Since that time he resided in Okawville, Ill. He was a Visitor for the Okawville Circuit, Southern Illinois District, 1929 to 1944. In 1917 he married Miss Amalia Harre of Okawville; this union was blessed with one child, Ruth. His first wife died in 1919. In 1921 he entered a second marriage, with Miss Ida Wickbolt of St. Paul, Minn.; this union was blessed with five children. Survivors are his wife and six children: Mrs. Ruth Beyers, San Francisco, Calif.; Lillian, Milwaukee, Wis.; Mrs. Ida Philps, Annandale, Va.; Albert, West Lafayette, Ind.; Mrs. Lois Russell, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; and Martha, St. Paul, Minn. Five brothers and eight sisters also survive Pastor Rohloff, who died of double pneumonia at Lutheran Hospital, St. Louis.

Funeral services were held May 7 by the undersigned at Immanuel Church, Okawville. The Rev. L. A. Wolf conducted the burial service in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Nashville, Ill.

F. A. DUENSING

August W. Lossner (January 28, 1878, Beecher, Ill., to May 18, Racine, Wis.), son of the Rev. Herman F. and Charlotte Klebe Lossner; graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1901; ordained and installed at Gettysburg, S. Dak., July 21, 1901; he served several mission congregations in South Dakota until 1905; Amboy, Minn., 1905 to 1909; St. Peter's, Waterford, Wis., 1909 to 1920; Franksville, Wis., 1920 to 1941 (joined the Wisconsin Synod), where he served two congregations: Trinity at South Raymond and Immanuel in Paris, Kenosha County. He retired from the active ministry in 1941 and moved to Racine, where he and his wife became members of the Church of the Epiphany. He died a few days after suffering a heart attack. He is survived by his widow, Anna, nee Krause; four daughters: Mrs. Gerda Eichelberg; Mrs. Charlotte Swanson; Mrs. Beata Lombardo, and Mrs. Agatha Mohr; one son, Gerald; and three sisters in Portland, Oreg. At the funeral services, conducted at Epiphany Church, Racine, the undersigned preached on John 20:17, 18; the Rev. Theodore Volkert officiated; and the Rev. Martin Mueller of Waterford officiated at the grave, in St. Peter's Cemetery, Waterford.

EDWIN JASTER

Walter Louis Schroeter (February 10, 1891, Grafton, Wis., to May 5, 1953, Bridgeport, Conn.), son of Gustav and Katherine Laubenstein Schroeter; graduated from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., 1914.

After serving in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, South America, 1914—1917, he, for reasons of health, returned to the States; pastor, Parr, Ind., 1919—1922; Amherst, Nebr., 1922—1926; Effingham, Ill., 1926 to 1944; and Iuka, Ill., 1944 to his death.

February 1, 1914, he married Augusta Beccue of Altamont, Ill. She died in 1936. Surviving are a son, Alvin, of Ely, Nev.; an adopted son, Harold, of Bridgeport, Conn.; and two daughters: Eulalia, the wife of the Rev. Charles Frenzel of Owego, N. Y., and Elaine Schroeter of Grafton, Wis.

He suffered a heart attack while visiting his son Harold, a student of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., who was doing supply work in Bridgeport and who had become seriously ill.

Funeral services were held in Effingham, May 8. The Rev. F. W. Hein of Flora, Ill., conducted a brief service at the funeral home; the Rev. Herbert E. Zimmermann preached the sermon at St. John's Lutheran Church; the undersigned of Hoffman, Ill., spoke on behalf of the Southern Illinois District and the Centralia Circuit. On May 9 the Rev. A. J. Beversdorf conducted the funeral service in St. Paul's Church, Grafton, Wis., and the Rev. H. E. Bleeke of Cedarburg conducted the burial service in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery.

W. C. OSTERMEIER

Announcements

Ordinations and Installations

CANDIDATES

Ordained:

Baumgartner, George, Good Shepherd, Chicago, Ill., by W. Baumgartner, June 14.
Trahms, Vernon T., Our Redeemer, South Bend, Ind., by R. F. Uffelman, June 14.

Ordained and Installed:

Fehl, George H., Immanuel, Cass Lake; Our Savior, Federal Dam, Minn., by Clement A. Joesting, June 21.
Bertram, Robert W., St. John, Whiting, Ind., by H. L. Steinbauer, June 7.
Bolin, Richard L., Grace, Three Lakes; Hope, Land o' Lakes, Wis., by Paul Natzke, June 14.
Knippel, Charles, Salem, Salem, Ill., by J. Heseman, June 7.
Studtmann, Robert H., Immanuel, Giddings, Tex., by Max Studtmann, June 21.

Ordained and Commissioned:

Clausen, Robert, St. John, Adrian, Mich., as Chaplain, by F. L. Miller, June 21.

PASTORS

Installed:

Arndt, R., St. John, near Vernon Center, Minn., by P. J. Seltz, June 7.
Bauer, B. T., St. Mark, Toledo; All Nations, Newport, Oreg., by A. H. Teyler, June 7.
Behnken, L. Lloyd, Bethany, Omaha, Nebr., by Elmer E. Mueller, May 24.
Bekemeyer, E. H., Trinity, Danville, Ill., by William E. Klautsch, June 14.
Bosse, Roland, as Chaplain in the Lutheran Home for the Aged, Cleveland, Ohio, by Gerhard W. Luebke, June 7.
Braunschweiger, F., Trinity, San Rafael, Calif., by G. E. Kirchner, June 7.
Deutschhausen, William, Trinity, Churchbridge; Peace, near Churchbridge; Grace, near Churchbridge, Sask., Can., by H. Reinitz, May 31.
Eifert, Edwin W., St. Paul, near Vergas, Minn., by W. F. Luttmann, June 21.
Fickenscher, H. H., Trinity, Maysville, Ky., by Edgar N. Roschke, June 21.
Gade, Dwain, St. Luke, Mount Clemens, Mich., by Paul J. Gold, June 21.
Holm, Alex, St. Paul, Buckeye, Iowa, by John Zimmermann, June 21.
Kempff, John M., St. John, Elmore, Minn., by W. E. Heidorn, June 14.
Korte, Carl, Mt. Calvary, Brookings; First, Aurora, S. Dak., by Robert Boerger, June 7.
Krahn, Walter F., St. Paul, near Slater, Mo., by J. W. Hennig, June 7.
Krengel, George A., St. Paul, Bowen; Holy Cross, Golden, Ill., by Herman C. Lehenbauer, June 14.
Moelter, Raymond G., Pilgrim, Marysville, Mich., by F. J. Schumm, June 7.
Rhode, Fredric C., Messiah, Hays, Kans., by V. W. Brack, June 7.
Ruhl, Lorne C., St. Mark, Muskegon, Mich., by H. P. Dorn, June 7.
Schmidt, Reinhold, St. Paul, Medicine Hat, Alta., Can., by A. Gehring, May 31.
Steffen, L. W., First Lutheran, Spencer, Iowa, by Walter F. Mueller, June 14.
Suhr, Marvin, Faith, La Habra; Mission, E. Whittier, Calif., by Tobias H. Joeckel, June 14.
Ullerich, William, Immanuel, near Iowa Falls, Iowa, by B. W. Bruch, June 14.
Wood, Harold A., Grace, Hamilton, Mont., by Daniel J. Ondov, June 14.
Zimbrick, Elmer W., Trinity, Alamogordo, by Arnold F. Meyer; Bethlehem, Las Cruces, N. Mex., by Paul F. Stueckler, June 7.

Commissioned:

Miller, Roland E., Zion, Melville, Sask., Can., as missionary to the Mohammedans in India, by Dr. O. H. Schmidt, June 7.

TEACHERS

Installed:

Bartels, Walter, St. Paul, Enid, Okla., by A. Meitler, June 7.
Brase, Walter G., Zion, Brighton, Colo., by Chas. E. Wedig, June 7.
Brenner, Cand. Donald, Trinity, Monitor, Mich., by H. Potzger, June 7.
Klug, Dennis, Immanuel, Fairbank, Iowa, by W. F. Reddel, June 14.
Schaar, Harry, St. John, Galveston, Tex., by J. W. Jackson, June 14.
Schapsmeier, F. H., Immanuel, Bristol, Conn., by George J. Meyer, June 14.

Ground Breaking

Akron, Ohio. Good Shepherd, church, March 1.
Bellevue, Nebr. Pilgrim, church, April 26.
Colorado Springs, Colo. Immanuel, school building, May 17.
Hillsboro, Kans. Zion, church, May 31.

Cornerstone Laying

Akron, Ohio. Good Shepherd, church, May 3.
Bettendorf, Iowa. Our Savior, church and parish hall, May 31.

Dedications

Alton, Ill. Trinity, parish hall, June 21.
Champaign, Ill. University chapel, May 17.
Faribault, Minn. Trinity, enlarged school, May 10.
Gleason, Wis. St. Paul, enlarged and remodeled church, June 14.
Haven, Kans. St. Paul, new church and parish hall, April 26.
Jamestown, N. Dak. Concordia, new church, June 21.
Keokuk, Iowa. Messiah, new church, June 7.
Merrill, Wis. St. John, new church, April 26.
West Palm Beach, Fla. Redeemer, new church, June 7.

Anniversary

Gleason, Wis. St. Paul, the 50th, June 14.

Official Notices

The *Fiscal Conference* will meet at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, September 9 to 11, inclusive. — W. C. BIRKNER, *Secretary,* Fiscal Conference.

Rev. Walter A. Pieper has been appointed Visitor of the Monroe Circuit to replace the Rev. Paul Waschilewsky, who has accepted a call into another circuit. — A. ZEILE, *President,* Michigan District.

Quentin Zimmermann desires to enter the ministry of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. He therefore requests a colloquy. — H. C. WELP, *President,* Southern Illinois District.

Wilfred Rittamel of Virdon, Nebr., who has done years of reading, has conducted Bible classes, and has attended two full years at the St. Louis seminary, is making application for a colloquy for entry into the ministry of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

Any protest concerning his actions and possible entry into our ministry should reach the undersigned not later than four weeks after date of publication. — A. F. WEGENER, *President,* Southern Nebraska District.

Heinrich Zeuch, San Antonio de Maturin, Venezuela, has applied for membership in The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod and requests a colloquy. — H. A. MAYER, *Asst. Executive Secretary* of Board for Missions in North and South America.

Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Opening

Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill., will open its 109th academic year with a divine service in Concordia Gymnasium on Wednesday, September 9, at 10:00 A. M. All new students will register on September 7, at 10:00 A. M. and meet for orientation at 3:00 P. M.

The entrance requirements are graduation from an accredited high school or its equivalent. Applicants must be twenty years of age. All applications must be accompanied with a record of high school or college credits, a certified medical statement, and a recommendation of the applicant's pastor. General fees are $140 per year for administration and maintenance and $200 for board. The special fees include registration, medical, equipment, library, voice recording, student activities, and amount to $53. Special fees must be paid on day of registration; the general fees are payable in quarterly installments in advance.

Applicants will please address the registrar, Prof. F. Kramer, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill. — WALTER A. BAEPLER, *President.*

Ephphatha Conference

Ephphatha Conference of Lutheran Missionaries to the Deaf will convene August 7—11 at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church for Deaf (7th and Forrest), Des Moines, Iowa. All those who plan to attend should write the host pastor, Rev. Victor Mesenbring, 535 28th St., Des Moines, Iowa. — THEO. DELANEY, *Secretary.*

Notice

Vacation visitors in or near Clear Lake, in northeastern Indiana, are invited to attend the regular Sunday services at Clear Lake Lutheran Chapel. Rev. Armin C. Oldsen preaches at the services, which are held at 10:30 A. M., C. D. S. T. Sunday school at 9:30 A. M.

Available

Silver Communion set in fair condition. Free for postage. — REV. A. J. GOLDBERGER, Shelbyville, Mo.

For sale: One Henry Stuckstede cast bronze *church bell* complete with yoke, stand, and wheel, in excellent condition, ready for use. Can be had for 65 cents per pound for weight of bell alone, F. O. B. Wausau, Wis. Estimated weight, 1,500 pounds, bell alone. 43 inches in diameter; pitch of f above middle c. Contact Zion Lutheran Church, 709 Sixth St., Wausau, Wis.

Fifty stationary school desks, in good condition, to anyone willing to pay transportation. Desks vary in type and sizes 1-2-3. Trinity Lutheran School, L. W. KAEMMING, Principal, Reese, Mich.

Addressograph machine, good working order, to any church willing to pay shipping charges. — CHRIST CHURCH, East and Harvard, Oak Park, Ill.

Wanted

Used German (Missouri Synod) *Hymnals*, to be used for immigrants arriving in Canada. Postage paid by the Alberta-British Columbia District of L. W. M. L. Used *collection plates* for Bethlehem Mission. Write: Mrs. Harold Witte, 6924 Ada Blvd., Edmonton, Alberta, Can.

Eighteen *used church pews* approximately 10′ long. State price, condition, and type of finish on pews. MRS. MARVIN KOECHER, *Secretary*, St. Paul's Ladies' Aid, Duquette, Minn.

Changes of Address

Pastors:

Bartell, Edward N., Box 295, Belfield, N. Dak.
Beck, A. H., 843 Acton, Wood River, Ill.
Behnke, Albert A., Chaplain (Lt. Col.), Nellis A. F. Base, Las Vegas, Nev.
Betow, B. C., 315 Marshall, McLeansboro, Ill.
Bird, Ralph, 1508 12th St., Bedford, Ind.
Bohrer, E. H., 1101 University Ave., S. E., Minneapolis 14, Minn.
Bolin, Richard L., Three Lakes, Wis.
Bopp, Clarence H., 707 N. Schley St., Bishop, Calif.
Brauer, R. H., Grover, Colo.
Broecker, C. F., 523 N. Webster St., Naperville, Ill.
Claus, Enno T., 4658 Chatsworth, Detroit 24, Mich.
Degenhardt, Walter M., 81-12 77th Ave., Glendale 27, N. Y.
Falk, Prof. Erich, 812 W. Burleigh St., Milwaukee 6, Wis.
Fickenscher, H. H., 1246 Vine St., Apt. 3, Maysville, Ky.
Gabram, Gordon O., Chaplain, The Chaplain School, Fort Slocum, N. Y.
Grunow, Robert A., 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Mich.
Harms, Erhard H., Chaplain, 0-932739, 2525 Pacific St., Davenport, Iowa
Heck, Donald E., Ireton, Iowa
Heckmann, H. A., General Delivery, Harlingen, Tex.
Heise, H., *em.*, R. 4, McHenry, Ill.
Iben, Theodore, *em.*, 706 S. E. 68th St., Portland, Oreg.
Jaeger, Robert, 244 E. Hilton St., Marengo, Iowa
Jesse, Richard, 18403 Asbury Park, Detroit 35, Mich.
Juergensen, Paul, 309 W. Washington St., Alexandria, Ind.
Kettler, Earl C., Chaplain, 49 Battery 37th A. A. A. Gun Bn., c/o PM 503, San Francisco, Calif.
Klausmeier, J. H., R. 1, Racine, Minn.
Krugler, Richard A., Ikot, Ibiok, Eket P. O., Nigeria, West Africa
Kutz, John F., 321 Monohan Drive, Louisville 7, Ky.
Lazos, C. A., Pino 189, Apartado 18980, Mexico, D. F.
Luecht, Norman M., 211 Probasco St., Lawrenceburg, Ind.
Malotky, H. J., Green Isle, Minn.
Meseke, Gilbert F., 1103 N. Spring, Amarillo, Tex.
Mueller, Martin J., *em.*, 806 Johnson St., Maumee, Ohio
Naumann, J. G. P., c/o Mrs. K. Reuter, Arlington, Minn.
Neitzel, H. R., Concordia Lutheran Home, R. 1, Cabot, Pa.
Noack, Adolph R., *em.*, Alta, Iowa
Oberschulte, F. L., Lake Route, Pequot Lakes, Minn.
Pralle, Henry E., Campbell, Nebr.
Rastl, Marvin L., Poy Sippi, Wis.
Reinhardt, Harold L., Chaplain, The Chaplain School, Fort Slocum, N. Y.
Schalow, Frederick M., 312 East 85th St., New York 28, N. Y.
Schoech, Walter F., 2300 S. Dixie Hiway, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Schuelke, Enno, Ogallala, Nebr.
Schwartz, E. W., Box 171, R. 1, Dwight, Ill.
Sieving, H. E., 215 S. Broadway, Crookston, Minn.
Soderstrom, Con. E., 522 E. Jefferson, Clinton, Mo.
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Wunderlich, Prof. Lorenz, 9014 Stonebridge Drive, Richmond Heights 17, Mo.
Zimbrick, E. W., 1400 Florida, Alamogordo, N. Mex.

Teachers:

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FINANCIAL REPORT

From February 1, 1953, to June 30, 1953

DISTRICTS	Budget Account	"Conquest for Christ"	Armed Services
1. Alberta and British Columbia	$ 4,312.64	$ 64,028.88	$ 932.80
2. Atlantic	37,353.78	477,334.25	7,996.89
3. California and Nevada	23,202.00	230,565.92	4,534.88
4. Central	159,738.75	1,379,047.62	28,245.04
5. Central Illinois	46,602.33	452,010.49	9,661.25
6. Colorado	13,259.68	121,134.54	2,818.85
7. Eastern	44,613.37	411,318.78	6,380.96
8. English	106,435.71	668,895.59	9,836.46
9. Florida-Georgia	4,890.41	31,973.82	594.80
10. Iowa East	40,000.00	324,503.79	9,260.76
11. Iowa West	65,785.30	517,139.26	11,041.42
12. Kansas	32,500.00	421,223.90	—
13. Manitoba and Saskatchewan	—	58,420.05	—
14. Michigan	165,697.19	1,117,134.86	19,237.55
15. Minnesota	143,718.39	977,614.94	18,963.29
16. Montana	7,106.22	71,580.91	1,512.88
17. North Dakota	20,319.38	233,812.18	3,265.35
18. North Wisconsin	70,223.58	482,855.21	10,988.88
19. Northern Illinois	164,191.15	885,739.77	22,656.91
20. Northern Nebraska	39,585.00	321,022.67	8,700.49
21. Northwest	26,734.06	315,557.16	4,720.95
22. Oklahoma	9,619.61	172,794.15	2,194.34
23. Ontario	10,048.12	141,185.49	1,161.58
24. South Dakota	11,198.44	160,451.18	568.30
25. South Wisconsin	105,242.29	791,663.73	12,960.78
26. Southeastern	22,497.79	231,527.64	2,585.78
27. Southern	4,693.89	109,580.20	651.75
28. Southern California	18,157.73	283,552.65	5,559.84
29. Southern Illinois	33,631.89	298,911.72	4,927.12
30. Southern Nebraska	43,707.60	372,270.32	6,636.08
31. Texas	18,137.23	440,201.44	5,711.14
32. Western	142,559.98	932,886.10	22,820.30
Total from Districts	$ 1,635,763.51	$13,497,939.21	$ 247,127.42
Receipts from Sundry Sources	25,613.79	25,032.30	62,844.09
GRAND TOTAL	$ 1,661,377.30	$13,522,971.51	$ 309,971.51

OPERATING STATEMENT

	1952	1953
Budget Requirements, 2-1 to 6-30	$ 2,187,500.00	$ 2,708,333.33
Budget Receipts, 2-1 to 6-30	1,364,361.19	1,661,377.30
OPERATING DEFICIT	$ 823,138.81	$ 1,046,956.03

Charles E. Groerich, Assistant Treasurer